

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the existing claims with the following set of claims in which Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled and Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 have been amended.

1. (Currently Amended) An IDT connector, comprising:

a base housing having a plural of conductive insulation displacement terminal terminals to which a plurality of wires applied with outer insulation are [is] press-fitted;

5 a cover housing ~~which is mounted to~~ engageable with the base housing, the cover housing having a plurality plural of guide holes ~~into~~ which receive the electric wires therein are inserted;

a wire holder for holding said retaining the wires for insertion to be inserted into the guide holes, wherein said cover housing has wire normal-position fixing means for fixing said wires in a normal ~~location~~ position within said guide holes with respect to a connection direction of said wires, the wire normal-position fixing means including tapered bores that form inner surfaces of said guide holes, diameters of said tapered bores gradually decreasing relative to diameters of said wires and,

10 wherein said wires are fixed a normal position in said cover housing by said tapered bores and are brought into contact with said insulation displacement terminals when said cober housing is engaged with said base housing ~~wire connection is performed by displacing said wires, which are fixed in their normal location within said guide holes by said wire normal-position fixing means, into IDT contact edges of the insulation displacement terminals while retaining said wires in the wire holder.~~

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) An IDT connector according to claim 1, wherein ~~when mounting said wires in a state where~~ said wire holder is being attached on to said cover housing; in a manner such that said wire holder is capable of being displaced to a position where said wire holder does not interfere with said wires to be inserted in said guide holes.

4. (Currently Amended) An IDT connector according to claim 2 [3], further including wherein said wire holder is guided by displacement guiding portions that guide said wire holder during engagement of said cover housing with said base housing so that said wires held thereby are displaced in a parallel fashion.
5. (Currently Amended) An IDT connector according to claim 1, further including wherein a protective guide plate for protecting the electric said wires, the protective guide plate being disposed is provided in an area of said cover housing, where the wire holder that is descended crosses said the guide holes, and said ~~the electric wires are covered with the protective guide plate~~ covering said wires.
6. (Original) An IDT connector according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said insulation displacement terminals are provided in said base housing such that adjacent terminals are staggered relative to each other in a zigzag pattern with respect to a connection direction of said wires.
7. Cancelled.